

REMARKS

Claim 45 is canceled and claims 46-54 are amended to correct informalities in the claims. Hence no issues of new matter are presented. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 46-54 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 45-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as allegedly indefinite due to various informalities in the claims. Specifically the Examiner states that it is unclear what is intended by “derivatives” in the claims and that clarification is requested regarding the parentheses, “(”, and brackets, “[”, “]” in the claims.

Claim 45 is canceled herein and therefore the rejection as to claim 45 is moot. Claims 46-54 are amended herein by replacing the word “derivative” with the word “compound” and by deleting the brackets in the claims thereby obviating the rejection.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Double Patenting

Claims 45-54 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 57-64 of copending application serial nos. 09/830,167 and 10/035,219. The Examiner states that although the claims are not identical, they are not considered to be patentably distinct since method of treatment claims were joined with the compound claims of the above-identified copending applications.

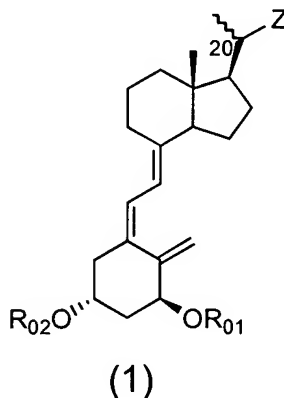
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a methylene group; when R₇ is a methylene group, the bond between R₇ and the carbon atom at the 26-position is double bond)).

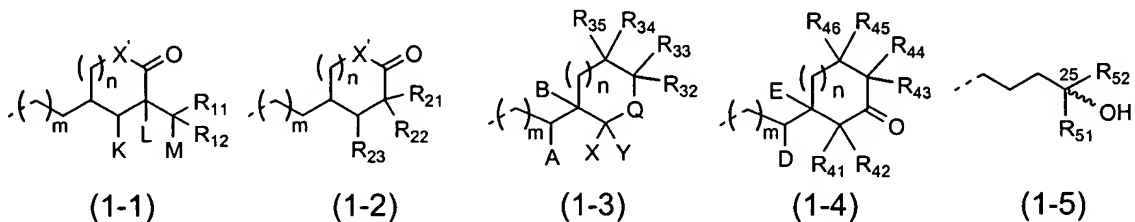
IN THE ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE:

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure:

Compounds expressed by the following general formula (1),



[wherein, R₀₁ and R₀₂ are each independently a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for a hydroxyl group; Z is one out of the following formulae (1-1), (1-2), (1-3), (1-4) and (1-5)].



The compounds can be used as active ingredients of treating agents for inflammatory respiratory diseases, malignant tumors, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, diabetes mellitus, hypertension,

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AY alopecia, acne, psoriasis, dermatitis, hypercalcemia, hypoparathyroidism and metabolic disorder
of cartilage.

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